

Small-town chamber of commerce directors and mayors still have big dreams, and use their perkier grins and tax abatements to try to lure new businesses, only to see their hopes dashed, time and again. Many towns with a rich history and strong community pride are already dead; their citizens just don't know it yet.

Many moderate rural Republicans became supporters of Mr. Trump when he released his list of potential Supreme Court nominees who would allow the possibility of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. They also think the liberal worldview creates unnecessary rules and regulations that cripple the economy and take away good jobs that may belong to them or their neighbor. Public school systems and colleges are liberal tools of indoctrination that go after what we love and value most—our children.

Some of what liberals worry about they see as pure nonsense. When you are the son or daughter of a carpenter or mechanic and a housewife or secretary who lives paycheck to paycheck, who can't afford to send kids to college, as many rural residents are, white privilege is meaningless and abstract.

It's not just older people. The two young men at breakfast exemplify a younger generation with this view. When Ted Cruz campaigned in a neighboring town in 2015, I watched as a couple of dozen grade-school pupils sat at his feet, as if they were at a children's service at church. His campaign speech was nearly a sermon, and the children listened wide-eyed when he told them the world is a scary place, and it's godly men like him who are going to save them from the evils of President Obama, Hillary Clinton and their fellow Democrats.

While many blame poor decisions by Mrs. Clinton for her loss, in an environment like this, the Democratic candidate probably didn't matter. And the Democratic Party may not for generations to come. The Republican brand is strong in rural America—perhaps even strong enough to withstand a disastrous Trump presidency.

Rural conservatives feel that their world is under siege, and that Democrats are an enemy to be feared and loathed. Given the philosophical premises Mr. Watts presented as the difference between Democrats and Republicans, reconciliation seems a long way off.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN CONCANNON

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Kevin Concannon on his retirement and distinguished career. The fact that Kevin Concannon retired is not news—he has done that several times before, and each time, he moved onto more exciting and challenging positions.

In 2016 Kevin Concannon retired from the USDA as the Undersecretary of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services after 8 years of service.

Kevin is a tireless advocate of people—all people. His work to assure that every effort was made to address hunger in this country is an indicator of his compassion, understanding of both the issues and solutions, and his unwavering faith in the ability of this great country to care for those who are struggling—whether it is food insecurity or earlier in his career on mental health issues, long-term care, and child welfare.

At USDA, Kevin worked tirelessly to increase options for SNAP bene-

ficiaries to access fresh local foods at Farmers Markets; he was determined that children should have more access to nutritious foods in WIC, schools, and childcare. While Kevin and I agree on that goal, I must add that, as a native Mainer, Kevin may have missed the mark on where white potatoes fit into those meal plans.

Kevin Concannon came to USDA with an amazingly broad spectrum of experience. From 1987 to 1995, he served as the director of Oregon Department of Human Resources; after having served commissioner of Maine Department of Mental Health and Corrections. In 1995, I was fortunate to be able to bring him back to his home State of Maine to serve as the commissioner of Maine's Department of Human Services. At the time, I commented that he was the Dan Marino of commissioners and welcomed him back. I would point out that Dan Marino is now serving as the VP of the Dolphins, and I expect that, in the same way, Kevin Concannon will find ways to continue his public service—and that will benefit us all.

Kevin led efforts throughout his career to improve child welfare, expand Medicaid and child health insurance, integrate programs of public health and medical care, and improve systems for long-term care for elders and people with disabilities. Many of those efforts were national in scope, and he was selected by his peers to serve as the president of the American Public Welfare Association from 1994 to 1995.

In every role, in every effort, Kevin Concannon has been an exemplary public servant and leader.

Margaret Chase Smith said it best: "Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation." Kevin Concannon is the personification of total dedication, honesty, and determination to make the world a better place; that has been the hallmark of his work each and every day.

Congratulations and best wishes to Kevin Concannon, and welcome home.

REMEMBERING ROBERT JUSTIN STEVENS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today in fond memory of Robert Justin Stevens, a former staffer of mine who recently passed away—entirely too young—after a long, arduous fight with cancer.

Justin was exemplary in his desire to serve and his love for public policy and politics. He was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Americans. Over the last few years, Justin managed Federal policy and advocacy for homeland security, public safety, and military-related issues as legislative director with the National Governors Association.

Before that, Justin worked with me, and later with Senator Scott Brown, as a professional staff member at the Senate Homeland Security and Govern-

mental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security. There, he helped us to identify and address waste, fraud, and abuse in government spending and financial improvement, audit readiness, and business transformation at our Federal agencies. During my 2008 Presidential campaign, Justin served as a senior advance team lead. It was in that context that I was first introduced to Justin's boundless love of life and energy.

Justin also served as the director for candidate operations and advance for the Scott Brown for Senate 2012 campaign; a financial systems analyst with the EMCOR Group; and a Navy/NASA university faculty fellowship program manager with the American Society for Engineering Education, ASEE.

Justin never took his young life for granted. An avid runner and adventurous soul, Justin sought to improve himself by taking courses in furtherance of a master's in national security and strategic studies at the U.S. Naval War College, after having received a B.S. in business administration from the University of Florida and graduated East Lake High School. Also, unbowed by his continuing struggle with cancer and always filled with hope, Justin married the love of his life, Elizabeth.

Justin will be forever remembered for the joy he brought to the lives of his family, friends, and colleagues with his humor, energy, and selflessness. Throughout his young life, Justin always made sure that those closest to him knew how important they were to him.

Cindy and I extend our warmest condolences to Justin's wife, Elizabeth; his mother Jean Nowakowski; his stepmother Karen Stevens, with whom Justin was exceptionally close; his siblings Bryan and Damon; his niece Magdalena and nephew Jackson. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ILITCH

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a champion for Detroit and for Michigan, Mike Ilitch. Everyone from Michigan knows his life story: the son of Macedonian immigrants, he founded Little Caesars Pizza, one of the largest pizza chains in the world, and rebuilt both the Detroit Tigers and the Detroit Red Wings into world class, winning franchises. He led the Red Wings to four Stanley Cups and brought the Tigers to the World Series twice.

The story of Mike Ilitch is the story of never doing anything halfway. He embodies the American dream: he served as a marine, built a business empire, and had an eye for perfection that led him to incredible success.

For him though, it wasn't enough to be satisfied with success in business or

sports; it was all about giving back. He said it himself: "I was raised in Detroit. I came from zero. This community helped make me. It's nice to give something back."

He loved Detroit and worked to revitalize the city while maintaining its cultural history. His company, Olympia Entertainment, purchased the Fox Theater and restored it in 1988. He built Comerica Park, home to the Tigers. His recent \$40 million donation to the Wayne State University School of Business will help build their state-of-the-art facility on Woodward Avenue, next to the new home of the Red Wings and the Pistons, Little Caesars Arena.

Detroit is better off because of the work that he did. And the people of Detroit are better off because of his work. From his philanthropic organization that has given to those in need and the program he started through Little Caesars that helps honorably discharged veterans get employed, Mike Ilitch gave people a chance to succeed and to thrive.

Mike will be sorely missed by all of us. His legacy is shared by his loving wife of over 61 years, Marian, and his seven children, but it is also shared by everyone in Michigan and all of those who love Detroit. Thank you.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Co-Chairman, Mr. PITTINGER of North Carolina, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. HULTGREN of Illinois.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Chairman, Mr. DUFFY of Wisconsin, Vice-Chairman, Mr. HURD of Texas, and Mr. PEARCE of New Mexico.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Chairman, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. POLIQUIN of Maine, and Mr. CRAMER of North Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4 of the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 114-224), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission: Mr. MACARTHUR of New Jersey and Mrs. LOVE of Utah.

The message further announced that pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2302, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, Mr. ZELDIN of New York, and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee.

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order No. 12131, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the President's Export Council: Mr. TIBERI of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. REICHART of Washington.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. DESANTIS of Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cultural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), amended by Public Law 107-117, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mrs. COMSTOCK of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 603 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission: Ms. Mary Bono of Washington, DC.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2501, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Mr. MEADOWS of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 351. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 352. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 353. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the rural add-on payment in the Medicare home health benefit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 354. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the Diversity Visa Program, to limit the President's discretion in setting the number of refugees admitted annually to the United States, to reduce the number of family-sponsored immigrants, to create a new nonimmigrant classification for the parents of adult United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 355. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 356. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and the delivery of, children's health services through school-based health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 357. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public lands in San Bernardino County, California, to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and to accept in return certain exchanged non-public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 358. A bill to establish a designation for jurisdictions permissive to terrorism financing, to build the capacity of partner nations to investigate, prosecute, and hold accountable terrorist financiers, to impose restrictions on foreign financial institutions that provide financial services for terrorist organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 359. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced excise tax rate for portable, electronically-aerated bait containers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 360. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEE):

S. 361. A bill to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem